

REMARKS

Claims 1-42, 45-101 and 103-113 are pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hasegawa, US 2002/0178137, now U.S. Patent No. 6,510,438.

Applicants note that the present application has a U.S. filing date of September 28, 2000 and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to a Japanese application filed on September 28, 1999. Hasegawa has a U.S. filing date of December 17, 1999 which is after the filing date of the Japanese application from which the present application claims priority. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection. An English translation of the Japanese application was filed on August 30, 2002 to overcome another rejection. While it is believed that another translation does not need to be submitted, Applicants are submitting herewith another translation.

Applicants note that Hasegawa is a continuation-in-part of application 09/179,519 filed on October 27, 1998 and now abandoned. It is believed that the certain portions of Hasegawa relied on by the Examiner are not disclosed in the '519 Application. Specifically, the Examiner relied on Figs. 6-8B of Hasegawa, but the '519 Application does not have these figures. The Examiner also relied on paragraphs 69-71 and 73 of Hasegawa, but it is believed that these paragraphs are not in the '519 Application as they relate to Figs. 6-8C. The Examiner also relied on paragraphs 74-78 of Hasegawa. These paragraphs simply explain that the embodiments disclosed can be implemented through a storage medium storing a software program. While these paragraphs do appear to be in the '519 Application, they are only directed generally to implementing whatever embodiments that are disclosed.

Applicants further note that the '519 Application claims priority to a Japanese application (JP 9-315931) filed on October 31, 1997 and published in 1999. It is believed that certain portions of Hasegawa relied by the Examiner and discussed above are not disclosed in JP '931 as well, given

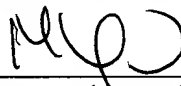
that JP '931 has the same limited number of figures as the '519 Application. Applicants herewith submit JP '931 and an English abstract in the accompanying IDS.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-42, 45-101 and 103-111 of the present application are in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032020500.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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